

**(Washington, DC)** Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) made the following statement in response to the inclusion of \$883 million in funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) in the full-year Continuing Resolution for FY 2011, which passed on April 14, 2011, in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

The domestic HIV/AIDS crisis has been exacerbated by an ongoing shortfall in ADAP funding. In February, Congressman Hastings offered with the support of AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) an amendment to the Continuing Resolution reallocating \$42 million in administrative funds to ADAP, which passed in the House of Representatives by a voice vote.

"In providing \$883 million for our nation's ADAP in the full-year Continuing Resolution, Congress has renewed its commitment to combating HIV/AIDS. This funding, which represents an increase of \$48 million over last year, will bring much-needed relief to low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS who are waiting for antiretroviral treatment and other related services.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank my dear friends and colleagues from Florida, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Congressman Ted Deutch, and Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, for their continued support of ADAP and other HIV/AIDS programs. In addition, I would also like to thank Congressman Denny Rehberg, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Health and Human Services, for his support of this effort. Finally, I commend my friends at AIDS Healthcare Foundation for their leadership and all that they continue to do each and every single day on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS.

"Ensuring access to treatment remains key to combating HIV/AIDS. By coming together in support of ADAP, we help ensure that states like Florida can provide low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS access to the treatment they need to stay alive, stem the tide of new infections, and invest in our nation's long-term fiscal health.

"However, our work is far from over. According to the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), 7,885 individuals currently remain on ADAP 'waiting lists' in 11 states and thousands more continue to be denied program eligibility due to service cuts. Alarming, my home state of Florida accounts for the majority of these cases with 3,807 individuals on the list.

"We can and must do better for individuals living with HIV/AIDS in this country. It is unconscionable that, in 2011, a lack of program funding remains a significant barrier to treatment. If we can create a no-fly zone in Libya, we should be able to make a 'no-AIDS zone' here in the United States."

Congressman Hastings has been a longtime advocate for the HIV/AIDS community and continues to support robust funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, including the *HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act*, the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative, the National AIDS Strategy, and state ADAPs.

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Democratic Chairman of the Florida Delegation.*

###